

Clean Version of Replacement Paragraphs and Claims

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In the specification:

~~Exhibit A~~ page 2, line 4:

26

The other current method is for the seller to upload the data item to an Internet service provider or a Web site operator. The Internet service provider/Web site operator will then notify the buyer via e-mail with a unique universal resource locator (URL) so as to allow the buyer to download the data item through the URL. Musical works have been known to be purchased in this fashion wherein a buyer can download a song in an MP3 file to the buyer's computer. With this method, however, the buyer must provide a credit card number in order to be charged for downloading the data item. This is not advantageous to the Internet service provider/Web site operator who provides the transaction service because credit card and bank fees are typically larger with high volume, low amount transactions.

page 2, last paragraph:

Preferably, the monetary storage includes an account for the seller so that the monetary sum credited to the seller can be stored in the seller's account.

page 6, third paragraph:

As shown in **Figure 1**, the data repository system **100** includes a plurality of data banks (**21-26**), a plurality of information banks (**31-36**), a plurality of electronic vaults (**41-46**), and a software program **50**. The data repository system **100** allows access by a plurality of users (**1-6**). Also shown in Figure 1 is an administrative unit **10** that manages the data repository system **100**. It is understood that the data bank **21**, the information bank **31** and the vault **41** are associated with the user **11**, for example. The data bank can be used by the user **11** to store one or more data items that the user **11**

wishes to sell electronically for a fee. However, the data bank 21 can also be used for the user 11 to download a data item from other data banks (22-26) if the user 11 pays a fee for downloading the data item. Thus, any user can be a seller or a buyer or both.

A3 Accordingly, the vault 41 can be used for storing proceeds from selling a data item that are credited to the seller, but it can also be used for depositing a fund so as to allow a buyer to use part or all of the fund to pay for downloading one or more data items.

*Expt w/tp
if corrected 7
Page 8, lines 2 and 4:*

*purpos
encl* *X* *A4* Figure 2 is the components in an information bank (31-36). As shown, the information bank (31-36) may include a price information storage area 310, an identification code storage area 312, a transaction record 316, and a user information storage area 318. The price information storage area 310 can be used for a seller to post a fee for selling a data item, or for a buyer to make an offer for downloading the data item. It is possible that the fee stored in the price information storage area 310 has a range specified by the seller and defined by a maximum amount and a minimum amount wherein the maximum amount is an asking price that the seller posts for selling the data item and a minimum amount is what the seller is willing to accept for selling the data item. When a buyer makes an offer, the offered price is automatically checked against the seller-specified minimum amount by the software program 50. If the offered price by the buyer is equal to or greater than the minimum amount, then the buyer is allowed to download the data item after a monetary sum equal to the offered price is deducted from the fund stored in the buyer's vault (41-46).

page 11, line 14:

X *A5* Thus, what has been described is a method and a system for providing a service to a seller who wishes to electronically sell a data item to one or more buyers for a fee through a telecommunication network. A data repository is provided for the seller to store the data item and for the buyer to directly download the data item onto the buyer's input device. Prior to making such a transaction, the buyer is required to deposit a fund into a monetary storage in the data repository. The fee that the buyer pays for

as
downloading the data item is automatically deducted from the deposited fund and credited to the seller. For using the service, the seller must pay a user fee to the data repository service provider.

In the claims:

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Cancel claims 2, 8, and 18.

1. (Amended) A data repository system to allow a seller to store a data item that the seller wishes to sell electronically to a buyer for a fee, said repository system comprising:

- A6*
- a) a data storage;
 - b) an information storage; and
 - c) a monetary storage having a seller's account and a buyer's account, wherein
 - (i) the data storage is used to store the data item; and
 - (ii) the information storage is for posting the fee for downloading the data item from the data storage, and the buyer deposits the fund in the monetary storage prior to downloading the data item; wherein said data repository system further comprises a program means capable of communicating with the data storage, the information storage and the monetary storage so as to store a fund deposited by the buyer to pay for downloading the data item into the buyer's account;
 - (iii) to deduct a monetary sum from the deposited fund according the posted fee in the information storage;
 - (iv) to allow the buyer to download the data item from the data storage; and
 - (v) to credit the monetary sum to the seller's account, wherein the fee for downloading the data item has a range specified by the Seller and defined by a maximum amount, and a minimum amount wherein the maximum amount is

the fee posted by the Seller, and a minimum amount is what the Seller is willing to collect from the buyer for downloading the data item.

A 6
7. (Amended) The data repository system of claim 6, wherein the seller uses an identification code to access the seller's account.

17. (Amended) A method of providing a service by a service provider to allow a seller to electronically sell a data item for a fee to a buyer who downloads the data item through a telecommunication network, said method comprising the steps of:

- A 7*
- a) storing the data item in a data repository;
 - b) depositing a fund in the data repository;
 - c) downloading the data item from the repository; and
 - d) deducting a monetary sum from the fund and crediting the deducted sum to the seller, wherein the fee for downloading the data item has a range specified by the Seller and defined by a maximum amount, and a minimum amount wherein the maximum amount is the fee posted by the Seller, and a minimum amount is what the Seller is willing to collect from the buyer for downloading the data item.

A 8
20. Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein an excerpt of the data item is used for the buyer to review the data item before downloading the data item, said method further comprising the step of downloading an electronic file containing the excerpt to the buyer.